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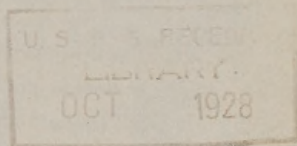
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FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH IN PICTURES

NO. 53

**ACRES OF WHITE PINE TIMBERS
LAID LOW BY DECAY**



**FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY
U. S. FOREST SERVICE
MADISON, WISCONSIN**

Structural timber, as well as growing timber, has its fallen forests.

Decay was the agency responsible for the condemning and wrecking of the railway coal terminal shown here. A large part of the white pine timber is still sound but the joints are badly rotted. This is one of many illustrations of the fact that a wooden structure is generally serviceable only so long as the joints are sound. In the case of treated timbers much of the effort and expense of treating is wasted if the untreated wood is cut into at the ends in installation and not subsequently protected with preservative. When practicable the best method is to cut the timber to length, "frame" it completely and then give it a thorough preservative treatment.

By making extensive repairs from time to time this structure was made to give long life without treatment. The repairs could have been avoided and longer life obtained if the timber had been thoroughly treated. It was apparently not considered economical to treat these timbers when the structure was built, although good preservatives were obtainable. Conservation expedients do the most good when they are adopted before dire necessity dictates their use.

*Photographs by Forest Products Laboratory,
U. S. Forest Service*



